

JACOB - VICTORIOUS IN DEFEAT
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 22nd November 2020

25 וַיִּנְתֵּר יַעֲקֹב לְבַדּוֹ וַיֵּאבֶּק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר:
26 וַיֵּרָא כִּי לֹא יָכֹל לוֹ וַיִּנְעַע בְּכַף-יָרְכּוֹ
וַתִּקַּע כַּף-יָרְכּוֹ וַיַּעֲקֹב בְּהֶאֱבָקוֹ עִמּוֹ:
27 וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלַחֲנִי כִּי עָלָה הַשָּׁחַר
28 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַה-שָּׂמַדְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב:
29 וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֹאמֶר עוֹד שָׂמַדְךָ כִּי אִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל
כִּי-שָׂרִיתָ עִם-אֱלֹהִים וְעִם-אֲנָשִׁים וַתִּזְכָּל:
וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁלְּחֶךָ כִּי אִם-בְּרַכְתָּנִי:
30 וַיִּשְׁאַל יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּידָה-נָא שְׁמֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר
לָמָּה זֶה תִּשְׁאַל לְשְׁמִי וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ שָׁם:
31 וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם פְּנִיאֵל
כִּי-רָאִיתִי אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים וַתִּנְצַל נַפְשִׁי

Gn 32:24-30 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered

Οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ Ῥεβέκκα ἐξ ἐνὸς κοίτην ἔχουσα, Ἰσαὰκ τοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν. ¹¹ μήπω γὰρ γεννηθέντων μηδὲ πραξάντων τι ἀγαθὸν ἢ φαῦλον, ἵνα ἢ κατ' ἐκλογὴν πρόθεσις τοῦ θεοῦ μένη, ¹² οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων ἀλλ' ἐκ τοῦ καλοῦντος, ἐρρέθη αὐτῇ ὅτι ὁ μείζων δουλεύσει τῷ ἐλάσσονι, ¹³ καθὼς γέγραπται· τὸν Ἰακώβ ἠγάπησα, τὸν δὲ Ἡσαῦ ἐμίσησα.

Rom 9:10-13 when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad- in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call- ¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

ὃν γὰρ ἀγαπᾷ κύριος παιδεύει, μαστιγοῖ δὲ πάντα υἱὸν ὃν παραδέχεται. ⁷ εἰς παιδείαν ὑπομένετε, ὡς υἱοῖς ὑμῖν προσφέρεται ὁ θεός. τίς γὰρ υἱὸς ὃν οὐ παιδεύει πατήρ; ⁸ εἰ δὲ χωρὶς ἐστε παιδείας ἧς μέτοχοι γεγόνασιν πάντες, ἄρα νόθοι καὶ οὐχ υἱοὶ ἐστε.

Heb 12:6-8 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. OT → TIMELY BOOK

- Ist OT relevant today?

- [STANLEY Andy *Irresistible – Study Guide*]

When it comes to what's in the Bible, the Old Testament is one of the primary stumbling blocks for non- and post-Christians. The Old Testament is used far more than the New Testament to create doubt in the minds of undergrad and graduate students. You may not have noticed, but skeptics and opponents of our faith never say, "The Old Testament teaches." I wish they would. Instead, they cite "The Bible." "The Bible teaches . . ." "According to the Bible . . ." Why? Because the church has communicated for centuries that our faith rises and falls on the defensibility of a collection of documents that include the Hebrew Scriptures.

For the record, it doesn't. (sic!!)

But most non-believers are convinced it does. Most believers are as well.

Jesus treated the Hebrew Scriptures as authoritative. Paul insisted they were God-breathed. Peter believed Jewish writers were carried along by the Holy Spirit. But they never claimed their faith was based on the integrity of the documents themselves.

Christianity has a compelling, verifiable, historical story to tell. But the moment we anchor our story to an old covenant narrative and worldview, we lose our case in the marketplace. Not in a Bible college classroom. Not in a seminary classroom. Not in the apologetics class offered by your local church. In the real world. The world where science is gospel and folks are growing more and more skeptical of all things religious.

Besides . . .

Jesus, the apostle Paul, the author of Hebrews, and the Jerusalem Council have given us permission to unhitch our faith from God's covenant with Israel. Actually, they didn't just give us permission; they highly recommended it. Paul threatened to . . . well . . . you remember. They all knew what we will never know until we choose to let it go.

Mix and match and you don't get the best of either.

You get the worst of both.

You get the (1) prosperity gospel, the (2) crusades, (3) anti-Semitism, (4) legalism, (5) exclusivism, (6) judgmentalism, (7) fourteenth-century Catholicism, (8) don't touch God's anointedism, (9) God will get 'emism, and other isms we will bump into in the next section. Pretty much everything that makes us resistible is tethered to some version of blended-model theology.

0.2. ELECTION AND DISCIPLINE

- the problem of discipline → how God deals with his elect

1. JACOB THE SHREWD

1.1. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE BROTHER

- taking advantage of HUNGER → temptation
- **Gn 25:29-34** Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." ³² Esau

said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

1.2. DECEIVING THE FATHER

- taking advantage of BLINDNESS
- **Genesis 27:21-23** Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him.

2. JACOB THE FIGHTER

- FLEEING from Esau

Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸ So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, **then the LORD shall be my God,** ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.

2.1. DECEIVER IS DECEIVED

- **Genesis 29:20** Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her
- **Genesis 29:23-25** But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!

2.2. MANIPULATOR IS MANIPULATED

- **Genesis 30:3** [Rachel] → "Here is my servant Billah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her → Dan
- **Genesis 30:15** Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes.¹ **Genesis 30:16** "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes.

2.3. BLESSING AND ADVERSITY

- **Proverbs 10:22** The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.
- Jacob flees from Laban

¹ The mandrake is poisonous, having emetic and narcotic properties, and was formerly used medicinally. The forked root is thought to resemble the human form, and was fabled to utter a deadly shriek when plucked up from the ground. The notion indicated in the narrative of Genesis xxx, that the fruit when eaten by women promotes conception, is said still to survive in Palestine.

- **Genesis 31:24** God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."
- **Genesis 31:42** If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.
- **Genesis 32:1** Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him

2.4. JABBOK → PENIEL

- **Genesis 32:31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip

3. JACOB THE FAMILY MAN

- FLEEING from Laban

3.1. HUMBLING HALF-WAY

- returning half-way?
 - **Genesis 33:18-19** And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. ¹⁹ And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. ²⁰ There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.
- scheming to meet Esau:

Genesis 33:8-16 Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." ⁹ But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰ Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. ¹¹ Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it. ¹² Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you." ¹³ But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴ Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." ¹⁵ So Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord." ¹⁶ So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

3.2. CLEANSING FROM IDOLATRY

- **Genesis 35:1-2** God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." ² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments"
- **Genesis 35:9-13** God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

3.3. FAMILY TROUBLES

- **Gn 34:25-27** On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers [children of LEAH], took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. ²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. ²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister.

- **Genesis 35:18-19** RACHEL → And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),
- **Gn 35:22** REUBEN → While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.
- **Genesis 37:3-4** JOSEPH → Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him
- **Gn 38:1** JUDAH → It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah

4. JACOB THE PROPHET

- MOVES (not fleeing) to Egypt

4.1. JACOB GIVES BLESSINGS

- **Heb 7:7** It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior (χωρὶς δὲ πάσης ἀντιλογίας τὸ ἕλαττον ὑπὸ τοῦ κρείττονος εὐλογεῖται)
- Pharaoh → **Gn 47:7-10** Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" ⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning." ¹⁰ And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.
- Ephraim and Manasseh → **Genesis 48:14** And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).

4.2. JACOB SEES THE FUTURE

- **Genesis 49:8-12** "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

5. TO REMEMBER

- We must use God's ways to accomplish God's purposes.
- Life of God's children is a life of God's discipline.
- It is a blessing to be wounded by God. **2Cor 12:10** "...when I am weak, then I am strong"